



NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management
1800 Marquess St. • Las Cruces, NM 88005
Alan Ables, Public Affairs Officer • 505/525-4488

For Immediate Release

April 4, 2002 • fro0403.rel

For Additional Information

Ken Schmid, 525-4305

BLM-Las Cruces Issues Fire and Smoking Restrictions

LAS CRUCES – The Bureau of Land Management has issued a Fire Restriction Order for public land in Hidalgo, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra and Grant Counties, according to BLM-Las Cruces Field Office Manager Amy Lueders.

The restrictions, effective April 5 until further notice, prohibit:

- burning of solid fuels, except for petroleum-fueled stoves, lanterns or heating devices that meet Fire Underwriters' Labs specifications, used in designated recreation areas;
- smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building;
- welding or using an acetylene torch with an open flame;
- operating a chainsaw without an approved spark arrester, a fire extinguisher of not-less-than 8-ounce capacity and a round-point shovel, and
- using explosives on all BLM-managed public land.

“The restrictions are to help prevent wildfires and to facilitate fire suppression during current high-fire danger conditions. They complement restrictions in place in the Gila and Lincoln National Forests and other local orders and laws,” Lueders said. Firefighters and persons with permits authorizing the otherwise prohibited acts are exempt from the order.

The order applies to about 5 million acres of public land in the five southwestern New Mexico counties. Violators may be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 12 months. The BLM-Las Cruces last issued such an order in May 2000.

